

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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SARGENT PORTRAIT VISITS CLEVELAND

An important oil portrait by the American, John Singer Sargent, will be exhibited at The Cleveland Museum of Art beginning today. The painting, Portrait of Charles Stuart Forbes, is lent to the Museum by Dr. and Mrs. John McDonough of Youngstown, who have agreed to leave the picture here for the rest of this month. It will be shown in company with other works of the period, in the Museum's American painting galleries.

The picture was painted by Sargent about 1889, when the artist was living in Paris. It is inscribed "to my good friend Forbes", and it is executed in what is said to be Sargent's most appealing style: a technique of swift, candid brushwork with a rather dashing informality. The subject, also an artist, is shown against a background of warm, rusty reds, clay-like yellows and black accents which are believed to suggest some of the art objects from the Paris Exposition of 1889 at which both Forbes and Sargent won medals.

Sargent is considered to be among America's greatest portraitists of the last century: works of the quality of the Forbes portrait are rarely available on the art market and as a consequence the Museum has so far been unable to acquire a suitable Sargent oil for its permanent collection.

William S. Talbot, of the Museum's paintings department, characterized the picture as "one of Sargent's most direct and dashing yet masterfully controlled portraits". He added "We are very happy to be able to exhibit it in Cleveland so that our visitors can see a vivid example of Sargent's eloquent artistry. We are doubly grateful to Dr. and Mrs. McDonough because the Museum has no Sargent oil of its own."

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